



LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund

Curtis Jones Farm

Description: The Curtis Jones Farm is a significant landmark of the rural historic landscape that surrounds the historic village of Bluff City, nestled within a bedrock canyon of the San Juan River. The Curtis Jones Farm, with its stunning green fields nestled between bone-dry red sandstone bluffs on the eastern edge of the historic townsite, is one of the last of the pioneer fields that remains as a living, dynamic component of Bluff's history.



Location: The Farm is situated on the north bank of the San Juan River, directly east of Bluff

Acreage: 159 acres

Grant funding: \$307,050

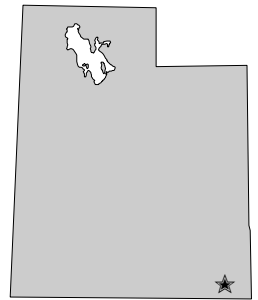
Total Project Cost: \$703,100

Grant Awarded: December 2000

Land Ownership: Private

Conservation Easement Held by: Department of Agriculture and Food

Local Support: Ty Lewis, Chair-San Juan County Commission, Governor Michael O. Leavitt, Sen. Robert Bennett, Congressman Chris Cannon, Rep. Keele Johnson



Public Benefits

Historical significance: The Curtis Jones Farm, located at the eastern edge of the historic townsite, provides both residents and visitors with a unique sense of place: a century-old, living village that retains its agrarian roots. The Jones Farm exemplifies a land-human relationship in this river valley that dates back to the 19th-century Mormon settlement and beyond.

Viewshed/Scenic Quality: Preservation of the natural and cultural characteristics of the farm, the river corridor, and wetlands will sustain the natural open space qualities that are critical to the Bluff community's sense of place. Preservation and protection of the farm will conserve prime farmland and water rights for sustainable agriculture, preserve a living component of a dynamic rural historic landscape, and protect a valuable community asset that encourages economic and cultural diversity.

Wildlife Habitat: There is a 10-acre riparian wetlands between the farm's south boundary and the north bank of the San Juan River, which provides habitat for deer, beaver, coyote, ring-necked pheasants, and a tremendous variety of migratory waterfowl including Canada geese, great blue heron, snow egret, and various ducks.

Agricultural Land: This land is classified as prime farmland by the Soil Conservation Service (USDA 1993). The principal crops on these soils with irrigation are alfalfa, small grains, and pasture. The farm produces 20,000 bales of hay each year.

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